

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A file storage device comprising:

an exterior shell having an outer surface;

an openable panel defining part of the exterior shell, the openable panel having a bottom edge, a forward facing surface, and a rear facing surface, the openable panel being pivotable about the bottom edge outward from the exterior shell between a retracted condition at which the forward facing surface is generally flush with the outer surface of the exterior shell and an open condition away from the outer surface of the exterior shell; and

a file support structure having a file storage area, an open top for insertion, access to, and removal of files from the file storage area, a first panel and a second panel each extending rearwardly from the rear facing surface of the openable panel, the first and second panels defining sides of the file storage area and pivotable with the openable panel, and a file suspension device disposed adjacent to the first and second panels, the file suspension device provided to suspend files within the file storage area, the file support structure disposed adjacent to the rear facing surface of the openable panel and being movable in concert with the openable panel,

wherein the open top is accessible when the openable panel is in the open condition and wherein the file support structure is disposed within the exterior shell when the openable panel is in the retracted condition,

wherein the file support structure is configured such that a file disposed on the file suspension device is completely disposed between outer surfaces of the first and second panels.

2. (Original) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the exterior shell further comprises:

a pair of opposed side panels; and

a front panel defined at least in part by the openable panel.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the file suspension device is arranged to present files suspended in the file storage area in a forwardly and downwardly cascading arrangement.

5. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the file suspension device comprises an arched surface.

6. (Original) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the exterior shell further comprises:

a top panel providing a generally horizontal support surface.

7. (Original) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the exterior shell is in the form of a table when the openable panel is in the retracted condition.

8. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the exterior shell and the openable panel combine to form a configuration that hides the file storage area of the storage device when the openable panel is in the closed condition.

9. (Currently Amended) A file storage device comprising:

an exterior shell having an outer surface;

an openable panel defining part of the exterior shell, the openable panel having a bottom edge, a forward facing surface, and a rear facing surface, the openable panel being pivotable about the bottom edge outward from the exterior shell between a retracted condition and an open condition, the openable panel being generally flush with the outer surface of the exterior shell in the retracted condition, and the openable panel being positioned away from the outer surface of the exterior shell in the open condition;

a file support structure having a file storage area, an open top for insertion, access to, and removal of files from the file storage area, a first panel and a second panel each extending rearwardly from the rear facing surface of the openable panel, the first and second panels defining sides of the file storage area and pivotable with the openable panel, and a file suspension device disposed adjacent the first and second panels, the file suspension device including a series of notches and provided to suspend files within the file storage area, the file support structure disposed adjacent to the rear facing surface of the openable panel and being movable in concert with the openable panel, and

a file folder with hooks, the hooks being disposed on the file suspension device, and the folder being completely disposed between outer surfaces of the first and second panels,

wherein the file support structure is arranged to present files suspended in the file storage area in a forwardly and downwardly cascading arrangement.

10. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 9, wherein the exterior shell further comprises:

a pair of opposed side panels; and

a front panel defined at least in part by the openable panel.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 9, wherein the file suspension device is arranged to present files suspended in the file storage area in a forwardly and downwardly cascading arrangement.

13. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 9, wherein the file suspension device comprises an arched surface.

14. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 9, wherein the exterior shell further comprises:

a top panel providing a generally horizontal support surface.

15. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 9, wherein the exterior shell is in the form of a table when the openable panel is in the retracted condition.

16. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 9, wherein the exterior shell and the openable panel combine to form a configuration that hides the file storage area of the storage device when the openable panel is in the closed condition.

17. (Currently Amended) A file storage device comprising:
an exterior shell having an outer surface and a substantially horizontal top panel;
an openable panel defining part of the exterior shell, the openable panel having a bottom edge, a forward facing surface, and a rear facing surface, the openable panel being pivotable about the bottom edge outward from the exterior shell between a retracted condition at which the forward facing surface is generally flush with the outer surface of the exterior shell and an open condition away from the outer surface of the exterior shell, wherein the openable panel is pivotable between the open condition and the closed condition without moving opening the top panel; and

a file support structure having a file storage area, an open top for insertion, access to, and removal of files from the file storage area, and a file suspension device provided to suspend files within the file storage area, the file support structure disposed adjacent to the rear facing surface of the openable panel and being movable in concert with the openable panel;

wherein the file support structure is adapted to suspend a file at any position along its length when the openable panel is in the open condition;

wherein the open top is accessible when the openable panel is in the open condition and wherein the file support structure is disposed within the exterior shell when the openable panel is in the retracted condition.

18. (Previously Presented) The file storage device of claim 17, wherein the file suspension device includes a pair of suspension surfaces.

19. (Previously Presented) The file storage device of claim 18, wherein the suspension surfaces are arched.

20. (Previously Presented) The file storage device of claim 18, wherein the suspension surfaces extend continuously from the openable panel to a rear end.

21. (Canceled)